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**Testimony for the  
Select Committee on Children  
Judith B. Greiman  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
February 28, 2012**

On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony regarding **SB 193, AAC Mandated Reporters and Requiring Criminal History Records Checks for Youth Camp Employees and Volunteers.**

Colleges are multi-faceted and have various ways in which campus faculty or contractors engage with students and school age children who are on campus. In each case, there are relevant campus policies that track pertinent state and federal laws. Some have sports or academic programs for children on an ongoing basis or host K-12 schools on their campuses. All have athletics of one sort or another for students, including those who may be under eighteen. Most have a counseling center and/or health center.

Currently, all colleges are subject to Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The Act mandates that colleges and universities must annually file a Campus Security Report with the federal government and must make the report available to students and employees. This report must include crime statistics for the prior three years, policy statements regarding various safety and security measures, campus crime prevention program descriptions, and procedures to be followed in the investigation and prosecution of alleged sexual offenses. Additionally, campuses have behavioral codes of conduct for students to follow and campus judicial processes that cover sexual violence among other things.

Physicians and psychologists are currently mandated reporters as are employees of campus-based preschools and K-12 schools and these campus-based employees are required to report child abuse to the Department of Child and Family Services or to the local police. These employees are notified of this requirement. Many campuses routinely include information about mandated reporting in the sexual harassment training provided annually to employees. While there is usually a campus person to whom a report should be given, employees are also told of the requirement to report to the commissioner of DCF and/or the local police.

We are concerned that the bill requires that **any** administrator, faculty, staff, athletic director, coach or trainer employed by a constituent unit of the state system of higher education or private institution of higher education be considered a mandated reporter. Few of these people are in contact with under eighteen year olds on their campuses. A better approach might be that expressed by Commissioner Katz at the informational hearing held in January. She recommended that the mandated reporter statute (17a-101) simply be amended to include “person entrusted with the care of a child or youth”, as defined in 17a-93 (o) of the CGS. This seems to be a more targeted approach that would address the issue but not put an additional and likely unnecessary training burden on either DCF or the campuses.

Albertus Magnus College, Connecticut College, Fairfield University, Goodwin College,  
Mitchell College, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer at Hartford, Sacred Heart University, Saint Joseph College, St. Vincent's College,  
Trinity College, University of Bridgeport, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, Wesleyan University, Yale University